



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**  
National Policy

**ORDER**  
**1600.55C**

8/18/04

**SUBJ: REPORTING THREATS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND VISITING DIGNITARIES**

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- 1. Purpose.** This order establishes guidelines and procedures for reporting threats or threat-related information concerning the President of the United States, other Government officials, and visiting foreign dignitaries to the U. S. Secret Service (USSS). Also, this order implements Department of Transportation Order, DOT 1690.10, Protection of Government Officials, dated March 4, 1992.
- 2. Distribution of this Order.** Distribute this order to the supervisory level and above in Headquarters, regions, and centers; use standard distribution for field offices and facilities.
- 3. Cancellation.** This order cancels FAA Order 1600.55B, Reporting Threats Against the President, Other Government Officials and Visiting Dignitaries, dated September 7, 1993.
- 4. Explanation of Changes.** Order 1600.55 is revised to: a) reflect the organizational structure and realignment of responsibilities within the Office of the Administrator for Security and Hazardous Materials (ASH), b) identify reporting responsibilities for FAA Lines of Business, and c) update telephone numbers within the USSS Intelligence Division and the Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Diplomatic Security Command Center.
- 5. FAA Policy.** All FAA employees and FAA contract employees must report information meeting criteria listed in paragraph 10 or any other information indicating a threat or danger to the President of the United States, the Vice President, the Secretary of Transportation, the FAA Administrator, other Government officials or foreign government representatives. The FAA does not solicit any information that could be construed as infringing upon the constitutionally-protected civil rights of groups or individuals. An example of the type of information that should not be reported includes information about individuals or groups expressing legitimate criticism of, or political opposition to, Government officials or Government policies.
- 6. Background.** The government agencies authorized to protect and investigate threats against the President, Vice-President and other government officials are: the USSS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the DOS, Bureau of Diplomatic Security.
  - a.** The USSS is mandated by statute (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 3056) and executive order to protect:
    - (1)** The President, Vice President (or other officer next in the order of succession to the Office of the President), the President-elect, the Vice President-elect, and the immediate families of the aforementioned;
    - (2)** Former Presidents, their spouses, and children who are under 16 years of age;

(3) Visiting heads of foreign states or foreign governments, other distinguished foreign visitors to the United States, and official representatives of the United States performing special missions abroad when the President directs that such protection be provided; and

(4) Major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and, within 120 days of the general election, the spouses of those nominees and candidates.

b. The FBI is authorized to help protect the President under the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 533(2), and to investigate criminal activities covered under the provision of Title 18 U.S.C., which include the following:

(1) The killing of any U.S. judge, U.S. attorney, assistant U.S. attorney, U.S. marshal, or any employee of the FBI, U.S. Postal Service, USSS, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Capitol Police, U. S. Coast Guard, and other specified agencies while engaged in or on account of performing official duties. (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1114.)

(2) Assault, resisting, opposing, impeding, intimidating, or interfering with any of the above-designated persons while engaged in official duties listed in Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1114. (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 111.)

(3) Assault, kidnapping, or killing any Member of Congress or Member of Congress-elect. (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 351.)

(4) Assault, intimidation, coercion, threats, harassment or directing violence to a foreign official or internationally protected person, upon his official premise, private accommodation, or means of transport. (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 878.)

(5) Mailing of threatening communications. (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 876.)

c. DOS. Under Title 22 U.S.C. Section 2709, the DOS, Bureau of Diplomatic Security is authorized to protect and perform protective functions directly related to maintaining the security and safety of:

(1) Heads of foreign states, official representatives of a foreign government, and other distinguished persons visiting the United States;

(2) The Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State, and official representatives of the U.S. Government in the United States and abroad;

(3) Members of the immediate family of the above-named persons; and

(4) Foreign missions and international organizations.

d. DOT Secretary and Deputy Secretary. The Secretary and Deputy Secretary, as head and deputy head of an agency listed in Title 5 U.S.C. Section 101, are persons protected by Title 18 U.S.C. Section 351.

**7. Threat Information Concerning Aviation.** Any threat or activity directed against the President or any of the protected individuals described in paragraph 6 that also involves aviation, an FAA facility or an FAA employee must be reported by telephone to the Headquarters Washington Operations Center (WOC), through the appropriate Region or Center Operations Center (ROC). The reporting requirements of this order do not supersede the notification requirements established in FAA Order 1990.1, FAA National Command and Control System.

**8. Reporting Responsibilities for Employees and Managers.**

**a. Employees.** FAA employees and FAA contract employees must immediately notify a supervisor or manager of threats, threat-related information, or activities against the President, Vice President, other Government officials, DOT and FAA officials, or visiting foreign dignitaries. Lines of Business are to ensure that their employees know the reporting methods to supervisors, to the servicing security element (SSE) in the Region or Center Security Division, or to the ROC.

**b. Supervisors/managers in regions, centers, field offices and facilities.** If you receive threat-related information concerning the President, Vice President, other Government officials or visiting foreign dignitaries, immediately notify the SSE in your Region or Center Security Division. The SSE will establish liaison with the USSS, and/or FBI, and the ROC.

**c. Managers and staff in Headquarters.** Immediately report threats against the President or any of the protected individuals described in paragraph 6 to the WOC, telephone number 202/267-3333 (24 hours).

**9. Reporting Responsibilities for the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Security and Hazardous Materials (ASH).**

**a. Director, Office of Field Operations, (AHS-1), in the Office of the Assistant Administrator for Security and Hazardous Materials will complete the following:**

**(1)** Upon receipt of any information related to a threat or activity described in paragraph 6, report the information to or confirm the information with DOT Security Operations, Office of Security (M-40); 400 Seventh Street, SW.; Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 366-4677. After business hours, report threats or threat-related information to M-40 through the DOT Crisis Management Center; telephone 366-1863 (24 hours). Also, notify the WOC.

**(2)** Report or confirm the following information to the extent that it is available:

**(a)** The identity of subjects or organizations, and supporting photographs, drawings, correspondence, etc.

**(b)** Subversive or criminal connections of subjects or organizations.

**(c)** Criminal or other records concerning the subjects or organization(s).

**(d)** Mental and physical condition of subjects.

(e) Reason for referral or report.

(f) Action or continued interest of the Department.

b. At Regions and Centers Security Divisions, SSEs must take the following actions:

(1) Report any threats or threat-related information or activities concerning the President, Vice President or other individuals covered in paragraph 6 to:

(a) AHS-1, FAA Headquarters; 800 Independence Avenue, SW.; Room 315; Washington, D.C.; telephone: 202/267-7211. After regular business hours, report threat information to the WOC, telephone: 202/267-3333 (24 hours); and

(b) USSS Intelligence Division, Washington, D.C.; telephone: 202/435-5731 (available 24 hours); and,

(c) the ROC.

(2) Report threats or threat-related information from DOT employees or DOT contract employees to:

(a) AHS-1 and,

(b) the ROC.

(3) Report threats or threat-related information against visiting foreign dignitaries to:

(a) AHS-1 and,

(b) the ROC, and,

(c) DOS, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Command Center, Washington, D.C.; telephone: 202/647-7277 (available 24 hours).

(4) Report information listed in paragraph 8a (2) through (f) to the extent that it is available.

c. Director, Office of Internal Security (AIN-1) coordinates with AHS-1 in developing and implementing FAA policy and procedures for reporting threats against the President and other Government officials.

**10. Types of Information to Report.** The following guidelines will help you determine the types of information to report. These guidelines are not intended to be all inclusive; they are examples of the kind of information that may be useful to protective and investigative agencies.

a. Any threat, plan, or attempt by an individual, a group, or an organization to physically harm or kidnap the persons protected.

b. Threats, incidents, or plans for demonstrations against foreign diplomatic missions, i.e., embassies, chanceries, consulates.

c. Information about the whereabouts or activities of individuals, groups, or organizations that are known to have plotted, attempted, or carried out assassinations or kidnappings of United States or foreign senior Government officials.

d. Any plans for the use of bodily harm, assassination, or kidnapping as a political weapon, including training and techniques used to carry out such acts.

e. Information about persons who persistently or irrationally insist upon making personal contact with senior Government officials for redress of real or imagined grievances.

f. Information about any person who makes oral or written statements about senior Government officials that can be interpreted as irrational or threatening or persons who make statements that express unusual interest or an obsessive fixation should be reported.

g. Information about terrorist individuals or groups, and their plans, capabilities, and activities (for example, bombings).

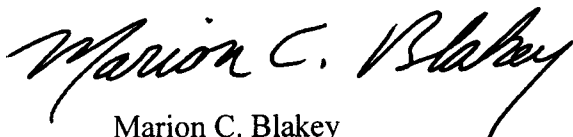
h. Information about caches of firearms, explosives, or other implements of war owned or concealed by individuals or groups when you believe their intended use is for other than legal purposes.

i. Information about plans for anti-American or anti-U.S. Government demonstrations within the United States or abroad involving probable or possible serious bodily injury or destruction of property.

j. Information about an attempt or credible threat to commit such acts to further political, social, or economic goals by intimidating and coercive tactics.

k. Information about any planned or imminent civil disturbances.

Promptly report all information, no matter how slight or of what nature, indicating a danger to the President of the United States or other protected persons described in this order.



Marion C. Blakey  
Administrator  
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## APPENDIX A. SUMMARY GUIDE FOR REPORTING THREATS

**NOTE:** This is a summary guide; refer to FAA Order 1600.55, Paragraphs 6, 7 or 8 for details.

For threats against...	Notify...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President, Vice President</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WOC through the ROC</li> <li>USSS Intelligence Division, Tele: 202/435-5731 (24 hours)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A visiting foreign dignitary or other person protected by the Department of State (DOS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOS, Bureau of Diplomatic Security Command Center, Washington, D.C., Tele. 202/647-7277 (24 hours)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public officials <b>NOT</b> protected by the USSS or DOS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional or Center SSE</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOT Official or activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSE and AHS-1</li> <li>DOT Office of Security (M-40), Security Operations, Washington, D.C. Tele: 202/366-4677.</li> <li>After business hours: M-40 through DOT Crisis Management Center Tele: 202/366-1863 (24 hours)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aviation, FAA employees and facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WOC, Tele: 202/267-3333 (24 hours) through the ROC.</li> </ul>